

City of Alexandria, Virginia
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, January 21, 2021
7p.m. - Zoom Virtual Meeting

P&RC Members:

Present: Gina Baum, Chair (District I); Stephen Beggs, Vice Chair (District II); Dana Colarulli (District II); Katy Matthews (District III), David Brennan (District III); Owen Chambers (student member); Alexandria Kelley (student member), Brian McPherson (District III); Barbara Marvin (District I)

Absent: Stuart Fox (District I); Joey Farmery (District II),

RPCA Staff: James Spengler, Director; Tiffany Marbury, Executive Assistant; Margaret Orlando, Division Chief, Rec. Services; Jack Browand, Division Chief, Park Planning; Laura Durham, Division Chief, Rec. Services; Ana Vicinanzo, Urban Planner, Park Planning; Beth Znidersic, Principal Planner, Park Planning; Judy Lo, Principal Planner, Park Planning; Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Office of the Arts.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair, Gina Baum called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PUBLIC HEARING: Joseph Hensley Park Plan Amendment

a. **Staff Presentation** – Beth Znidersic & Jack Browand, Park Planning

Beth Znidersic and Jack Browand gave a presentation on the Hensley Park Renovation Plan. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/HensleyPRC21Jan2021.pdf>

Public Comment: No public comment

ACTION: FY21.01.21.A

Motion: Steven Beggs moved, and Katy Matthews seconded the motion to close the public hearing. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

ACTION: FY21.01.21.B

Motion: Brian McPherson moved, and Katy Matthews seconded the motion to endorse the proposed Hensley Park Renovation Plan.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

IV. COMMISSION REPORTS (verbal reports by District)

DISTRICT I: Barbara Marvin and Stuart Fox had nothing to report. Gina Baum reported that the Waterfront Commission met earlier this week. There was a short discussion on the tall ship Providence.

DISTRICT II: Joey Farmery and Stephen Beggs had nothing to report. Dana Colarulli reported that the contract has been issued for the construction project at MacArthur, but the demolition for that project has not begun.

DISTRICT III: David Brennen, Katy Matthews and Brian McPherson had nothing to report.

V. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

b. Staff Reports – Commissioner Questions

Division updates (staff reports) posted at:

https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/PRCCCombinedReport_1_21_21.pdf

Margaret Orlando updated the Commission on current childcare programs offered by RPCA. She stated that RPCA partnered with ACPS to serve Title-1 students. Prior to that partnership, RPCA opened two childcare facilities (Mount Vernon and Patrick Henry Recreation Centers) to help families of essential workers, and those with financial need. Only those that met a specified criterion were enrolled at these locations. Summer camps will function similar to last year's programming with smaller group sizes and COVID-19 guidelines in place. Registration for summer camps should open the first week of April.

DISCUSSION ITEMS & ACTIONS

a. Meeting Minutes: December 15, 2020

It is noted to amend the December minutes by adding Barbara Marvin to the Commission attendee list. Katy Matthews motioned to approve the meeting minutes with the amendment. Dana Colarulli seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous vote.

b. Ewald Parkour Fundraising Extension Request – Jonas Neihardt

Mr. Neihardt updated the Commission on the status of the Ewald Park project. Neihardt has been able to raise \$12,000 since being awarded the community matching fund grant of \$25,000 in 2019. Due to the pandemic, fund raising has been challenging. He has applied for an additional grant from Trans Urban, a previous sponsor of this project. If this grant is awarded, he will reach his goal of \$25,000. He is reaching out to previous donors and speaking with other potentially contributors.

Judy Lo asked the Commission to approve an extension for the Ewald Parkour project for an additional six months. This will give Mr. Neihardt until June 30, 2021, to raise additional funds to meet the \$25,000 goal.

ACTION: FY21.01.21.D

Motion: Steven Beggs moved, and Brian McPherson seconded the motion to approve the project extension. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- c. **Wilkes Street Park Final Design Presentation** – Ana Vicinanzo, Urban Planner, Park Planning

Ana Vicinanzo, Trini Rodriguez, and John Neilson gave a presentation on the Wilkes Street Park Final Design Presentation. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/WilkesStreetPark21Jan2021.pdf>

- d. **Upland Park Concept Design Presentation** – Ana Vicinanzo, Urban Planner, Park Planning
Ana Vicinanzo gave a presentation on the Upland Park Concept Design. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/UplandParkDesignPRC21Jan2021.pdf>

VI. NEXT MEETING

February 18, 2021 – Virtual Zoom Meeting

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Brian McPherson moved, and **Stephen Beggs** seconded a motion to adjourn at 10:04p.m. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

*Please note that meeting minutes are a summary of topics discussed during each Commission meeting. Meetings are video recorded in their entirety. Full video recording available here:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/video/4799>